SHASTRI): (a) RBI's requirement of currency and bank notes during the last three years is as indicated in Annexure. [*See* Appendix CLIV, Annexure No. 73].

(b) The details of currency / bank notes printed and supplied to RBI for circulation during the last 3 years are as indicated in above Annexure.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) To bridge the gap between the demand and for the supply of currency / bank notes, the following steps have been taken:—

(1) The existing two note printing presses at Dewas and Nasik have been put on two shifts working of 11 hours each.

(2) The Govt. have decided to set up two new Note Printing Presses— one at Salboni (West Bengal) and the other at Mysore (Karnataka).

(3) A decision has been taken to coinise Re. 1/-, Rs. 2/- and Rs. 5/- denomination notes in a phased manner so as to utilise the capacity so released for printing of higher denomination notes.

Production of Coins by Government Mints

1623. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what was the production of coins in the Government Mints in the years 1987-88, 1988-89 and 1989-90;

(b) what was the extent of import of coins (value-wise and denomination-wise) during these years, if any, and the reasons therefor,

(c) whether the Government Mints are now geared up to produce sufficient quantity of coins to meet circulation needs;

(d) if answer to part (c) above be in the negative, what steps are being taken in this regard; and

(e) whether Government propose to import coins in the coming years to meet shortage in production, if any?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANIL SHASTRI): (a) The production of coins in the Government Mints during the years 1987-88, 1988-89 and 1989-90 were as under:—

Year	Production (in million pieces)
1987-88	2945
1988-89	3183
1989-90	2844

(b) During the above period 1250 million pieces of Stainless Steel Coins at a total cost of Rs. 17.09 crores in the following denominations were also imported:

Denomination	Quantity (in million pieces)
50 paise	300
25 paise	400
10 paise	550

The above quantities of coins were imported to implement Government's decision to introduce Stainless Steel Coins in the denominations of 50 paise, 25 paise and 10 paise.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) & (e) Do not arise.

Government Mint at NOIDA

1624. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) when the new Government Mint at NOIDA went into production;

(b) what production has been achieved by it since it went into production, year-wise;

(c) whether it used / uses imported stainless steel blanks to produce finished coins; and

(d) if so, when it will be possible